shadow regions beyond Orissa, Andhra Pradesh border to apprise fisherman of weather bulletins in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The coastal areas of the Orissa and Andhra Pradesh including Sompeta, Kakinada and Nellore fall within the coverage zone of the High Power Transmitters at Cuttack, Vijaywada and Vishakhapatnam and FM Transmitters at Puri and Berhampur in Orissa, which cater to the needs of the listeners, including fishermen, by broadcast of weather bulletins and warnings about cyclonic storm etc., round the clock.

**Steps Taken for Birth Control**

371. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present birth rate in our country, how many children are born every day;

(b) what steps are being taken to control the birth rate;

(c) which community is cooprating more to the birth control measures; and

(d) what is the amount spent for birth control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) According to the latest available Sample Registration Sytem estimates, the birth rate in the country is 28.3 (provisional) per thousand population for 1995. Based on this rate and the estimated midyear population of 1996, the number of children born per day works out to 72,300.

(b) Measures taken to control birth rate among others are:—

(i) A system of decentralised participatory planning from the Primary Health Centre Level with emphasis on improvement in the quality of services and client satisfaction.

(ii) Under the Community Award Scheme, a village in each district (with more than 500 population) will be given an Award of Rs. 2 lakh for lowering Birth Rate and Infant & Child Mortality Rates.

(iii) Pulse Polio and School health check up through massive social mobilisation, beside routine immunisation, to improve their survival and promote child health.

(c) The Family Wefare Programme is being promoted in voluntary basis with cafeteria approach where the client needs are met by providing quality of services.

(d) An allocation of Rs. 1550,00 Crores has been made for implementing the Family Welfare Programme during the year 1996-97.

**Gold Smugglers using Liberalised Gold Import Scheme for Smuggling**

372. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the liberalised gold import scheme introduced by Government in 1992 has helped the smugglers to bring gold using NRIs returning from gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the modus operandi of the gold smugglers taking advantage of the scheme;

(c) whether Government have made any in-depth review of the gold import scheme in the light of its actual working; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures contemplated by Government in the matter?